



Dan Ojcius

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Dan Ojcius

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: Spanish Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 16 years

Q. How much Spanish do you expect your third year Spanish students to know?

A. At the end of third year, they should be able to carry on with small talk in most situations.

For example: If they were to take their car in for repair, they could tell them the car is not running right, but they could not tell them the clutch is slipping. If they were dropped in the middle of Mexico, they would probably get along fairly well in any population without using their English.

Q. What activity are the students working on during today's visit?

A. Today they are working on reflexive verbs, which are typically verbs associated with things you do for yourself like brushing your teeth or combing your hair.

Q. What teaching strategies do you use to help them learn this skill?

A. I speak almost entirely in Spanish during class so they hear a lot of Spanish. The students also have partners and they work together to help each other learn. We use photos and visuals to help them learn the language.

Q. Why is it important for students to learn a foreign language?

A. I always tell my students that learning a foreign language is important for getting into college and that it will have economic benefits down the road through more job opportunities.

Q. Do Wa-Hi students have ample access to foreign language classes?

A. We have an excellent program at Walla Walla High School which features five different levels. There are a lot of ways for students to get plugged in and learn a foreign language once they decide that's what they want to do.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
DAN OJCIUS' CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM DAN...

There are a lot of social benefits from learning a foreign language, especially here in Walla Walla. Even if people speak English, when you try to speak to them in their native language it tells them you care about them as a person.

We speak almost entirely in Spanish during my third year Spanish class. Students hear and speak a lot of Spanish each day. This really helps them learn the language.



Most of the students in third year Spanish are juniors and seniors, but this year I even have a freshman. The students work hard and learn from each other.